

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claim Status and Amendment

Claims 16, 19-20, 22-23, 27, 38 and 40-41 were pending in this application when last examined. Claims 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, and 27 have been rejected. Claims 38 and 40-41 have been allowed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

By way of the present amendment, claims 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation or divisional on any cancelled subject matter. No new matter has been added.

Allowed claims 38 and 40-41 remain pending upon entry of this amendment.

The present amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

II. Anticipation Rejection

Claims 16, 19-20, 22-23, and 27 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Nagata et al. (US 5,575,763) for the reasons set forth in item 2 on pages 2-3 of the Action. For the sole purpose of expediting allowance of the claims indicted as allowed, and not to acquiesce to the rejection, the rejected claims have been cancelled, without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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